

VISIT...

LANZAROTE
Caliente.COM

MARVEL
COMICS

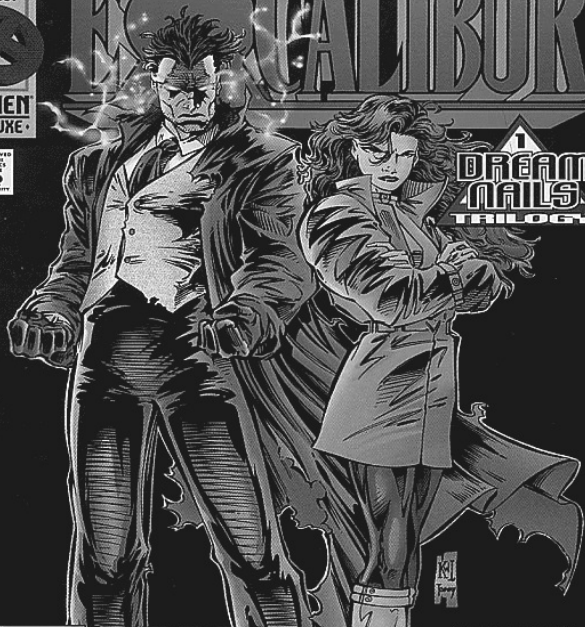
AUGUST

X-MEN
DELUXE

APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY

X-CALIBUR

1
DREAM
NAILS
TRILOGY



DIRECT EDITION



08811 >

7 59606 04057 5

NP BB \$1.95 US \$2.75 CAN

PRYDE & WISDOM: The UNKNOWN IS THEIR SPECIALTY.

IT IS DARK HERE,
AND CHILL.

THE AIR HAS NOT
ENOUGH OXYGEN
IN IT, LEAVING US
WEAK AND
SLUGGISH.

I HAVE DEVELOPED
AN INFECTION AROUND
THIS METAL VALVE SUNK
IN MY BACK FROM WHICH
THEY SIPHON MY BODY
FLUIDS FOR INSPECTION.

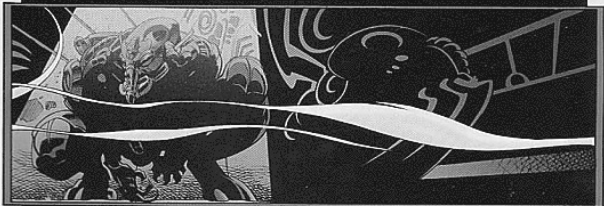
WE ARE IN CAPTIVITY,
MY CREW AND I, BUT
IT'S NOT SO BAD.

WE CAN'T HELP BUT LAUGH
WHEN WE REMEMBER THE
LOOK ON THE SOLDIER'S
FACE...

WHEN I BIT THROUGH
HIS CONTAMINANT SUIT.

STAN LEE PRESENTS

DREAM NAILS



WARREN ELLIS
WRITER

JOE ROSAS
colorist

LARRY STROMAN penciler
with **DARRICK GROSS**,
KEN LASHLEY & **JEFF MOY**

DIGITAL CHAMELEON
color seps

COMICRAFT
lettering

CAM SMITH inker
with **DARRICK GROSS**, **TOM WEGRZYN**,
PHIL MOY, **CON HUDSON** & **JIMMY PALMOTTI**

SUZANNE GAFFNEY
editor

BOB HARRAS chief

RETAILERS: MARVEL COMICS, INC., 100 N. MICHIGAN, 1000, SUITE 1000, CHICAGO, IL 60611. DISTRIBUTION: MARVEL COMICS, INC., 100 N. MICHIGAN, 1000, SUITE 1000, CHICAGO, IL 60611. SUBSCRIPTIONS: MARVEL COMICS, INC., 100 N. MICHIGAN, 1000, SUITE 1000, CHICAGO, IL 60611. POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO MARVEL COMICS, INC., 100 N. MICHIGAN, 1000, SUITE 1000, CHICAGO, IL 60611. PRINTED IN CANADA. © 1995 MARVEL COMICS, INC. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. MARVEL IS A REGISTERED TRADEMARK OF MARVEL COMICS, INC. IN THE U.S. AND OTHER COUNTRIES. SUBSCRIPTIONS: MARVEL COMICS, INC., 100 N. MICHIGAN, 1000, SUITE 1000, CHICAGO, IL 60611. POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO MARVEL COMICS, INC., 100 N. MICHIGAN, 1000, SUITE 1000, CHICAGO, IL 60611. PRINTED IN CANADA.



MUIR ISLAND, OFF THE NORTHERNMOST
TIP OF SCOTLAND, JUST AS COLD AS
IT LOOKS...

PETE WISDOM IS
NOT A MORNING
PERSON.

HE SHUFFLES
AROUND THE
MUIR RESEARCH
STATION AT THIS
UNHOLY HOUR OUT
OF NECESSITY.

NO OTHER
BUGGERS
AWAKE
TO TELL HIM
NOT TO
SMOKE.

uff.

OH, GOD...
ALL RIGHT, LET'S
DO SOMETHING
CONSTRUCTIVE
THIS
MORNING.

COMPUTER --
CONNECT TO
THE ANSWERING
MACHINE ON MY
LONDON FLAT'S
PHONELINE.



KOFF
KAFF

AND
COMPUTER,
MAKE A NOTE -- I
MUST NEVER DRINK
MAGGIORI'S
ROTTEN COFFEE
AGAIN.

NOT
UNLESS I'M
LOOKING FOR A
SUICIDE
METHOD,
ANYWAY...

PRIV



'ERE
WE GO.

PLAY BACK
THE MESSAGES --
BUT DUMP ANYTHING
FROM SCICLUNA,
WILL YOU?

I DON'T
NEED ANY OF
HER AT THIS
TIME IN THE
MORNING.

YOU'VE
REACHED PETE
WISDOM'S
ANSWERING
MACHINE. TALK
OR GET OFF
THE BLOODY
LINE.

BELEEF

WISDOM,
IT'S RAQUEL.
WHERE HAVE YOU
BEEN ALL THESE
WEEKS? YOU STILL
OWE ME TWENTY
QUID, YOU

BELEEF



BELEEF

PETE, IT'S
CULLEY. I'VE
REALLY FALLEN
IN IT THIS TIME,
AND I -- COUGH --
NEED A
FAVOR.

MEDICAL
ATTENTION. THE
PRIVATE KIND. SO
PRIVATE THAT OUR
MUTUAL EMPLOYER
REALLY DOESN'T
NEED TO BE TOLD,
RIGHT?

I'M AT
THE USUAL
PLACE -- KAFF --
HELP ME

BELEEF



LET ME MAKE CERTAIN I UNDERSTAND.

YOU WANT TO BORROW THE MIDNIGHT RUNNER, GO TO LONDON IN IT -- AND YOU DON'T KNOW WHEN YOU CAN RETURN IT.

TELL ME ANOTHER.

NO, NO -- I'M SERIOUS --

I WAS AFRAID OF THAT. GO PLAY IN TRAFFIC, WISDOM.

IF THERE WAS ANY BLOODY TRAFFIC UP HERE IN THE FROZEN NORTH, IT'D BE ALL RIGHT, WOULDN'T IT? I COULD HITCH A LIFT.

COULD YOU FLY HER, WISDOM?

WELL, um... ACTUALLY, I WAS SORT OF HOPING I COULD TALK YOU INTO --

NO CHANCE. I HAVE TO FINISH PUTTING ALL THIS TOGETHER FOR RORY.

LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE OUT OF LUCK, SUNSHINE.

I'LL FLY HIM DOWN.

THE RUNNER'S THE ONLY QUICK WAY TO LONDON, BRADDOCK!



IF
THAT'S OKAY
WITH YOU,
BRIAN.

I KNOW
HOW TO FLY THE
RUNNER, I'M NOT
BUSY... AND HE
SEEMS PRETTY
DESPERATE.

YEAH,
HE
DOES.

IT'S
JUST THAT
A MATE OF
MINE'S IN
TROUBLE,
AND --



OKAY,
OKAY --
TAKE HIM,
KITTY.



GREAT!
I OWE YOU,
BRIAN.

AND
CHANGE YOUR
CLOTHES, PRYDE --
I SURELY WALKING
AROUND LONDON
WITH YOU LOOKING
LIKE THAT.

BUY
SOME COFFEE
WHILE YOU'RE THERE!
WE'VE RUN OUT OF
RORY'S GOOD
STUFF!

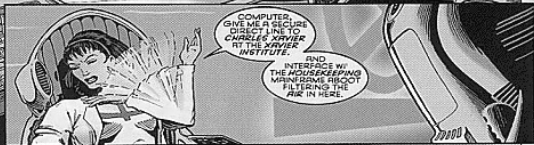
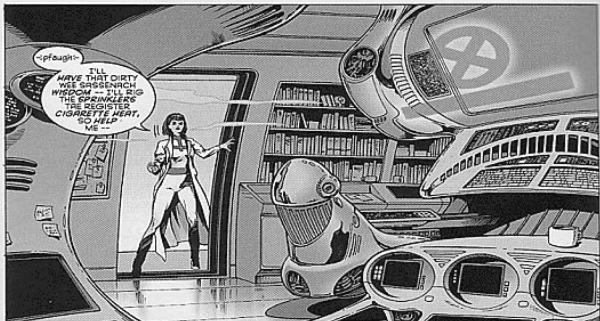


KITTY.

WHY ARE
YOU FLYING
WISDOM TO
LONDON? YOU
CAN'T STAND
THE MAN.

WELL...
HE WANTS TO
HELP A FRIEND.
WE SHOULDN'T
STAND IN HIS
WAY.

AND I STILL DON'T
TRUST HIM AN INCH.
I WANT TO KEEP
AN EYE ON HIM.





... I'VE BEEN THINKING A LOT ABOUT THE LEGACY VIRUS INFORMATION THAT WAS LEAKED TO THE MEDIA OUT OF MY COMPUTERS.

WE'VE BEEN RUNNING AROUND WITH THEORIES AND SUSPECTS, BUT --

-- WELL, DURING THAT WHOLE HORRIBLE PHALANX BUSINESS, AND YOU DESTROYING YOUR COMPUTER FACILITIES --

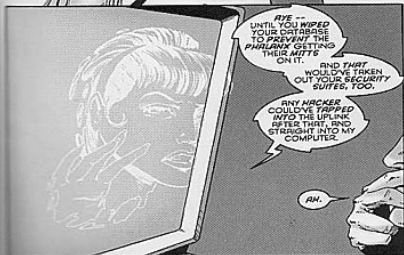
-- WE FORGOT SOMETHING.



SUCH AS?

AT THE TIME, YOUR COMPUTERS AT WESTCHESTER, AND MINE HERE, WERE CONNECTED BY A SATELLITE UPLINK.

THAT'S RIGHT. WE WERE POOLING LEGACY VIRUS DATA. SECURITY WAS MAINTAINED AT BOTH ENDS.



RYE -- UNTIL YOU WIPED YOUR DATABASE TO PREVENT THE PHALANX GETTING THEIR MITS ON IT.

AND THAT WOULD'VE TAKEN OUT YOUR SECURITY SUITES, TOO.

ANY HACKER COULDN'T HAVE TAPPED INTO THE UPLINK AFTER THAT, AND STRAIGHT INTO MY COMPUTER.

AH.



AH YOURSELF. WE WERE WIDE OPEN AFTER THAT, FOR AT LEAST ENOUGH TIME TO GET IN AND SET UP A LINK WITH US.

SO IT COULD HAVE BEEN ANYONE. WHAT ABOUT THIS WISDOM CHARACTER?



"WISDOM? NAE, HE
COULDN'T HAVE
MANAGED IT, WASN'T
ON THE STATION
LONG ENOUGH."

"BUT HIS EMPLOYERS --
DID HE TELL YOU ABOUT
BLACK AIR? THE BRITISH
INTELLIGENCE GROUP?"

"I DON'T TRUST
HIM, AND I DON'T
TRUST THEM."

"THEY'VE REPLACED
THE OLD WIRD
HAPPENINGS
ORGANIZATION,
SET UP TO OBSERVE
PARANORMAL
EVENTS."

"BUT I THINK
THEY'VE GOT
THEIR OWN
AGENDA."

"YOU GOT
HEATHROW
AIRPORT ON
THE RADIO
YET?"

"WE'RE IN
RANGE. CAN
YOU CALL US
IN? I WANT TO
CONCENTRATE
ON THE
FLYING."

"THE
RUNNER'S
PULLED TO THE
RIGHT A BIT SINCE
IT TOOK THAT
HIT OVER
GENOSHA."



HEATHROW --
I QUOTE EXTRA-
ORDINARY REF.
PIZZA CONNECTION.
PLEASE RESPOND
BY THE BOOK.

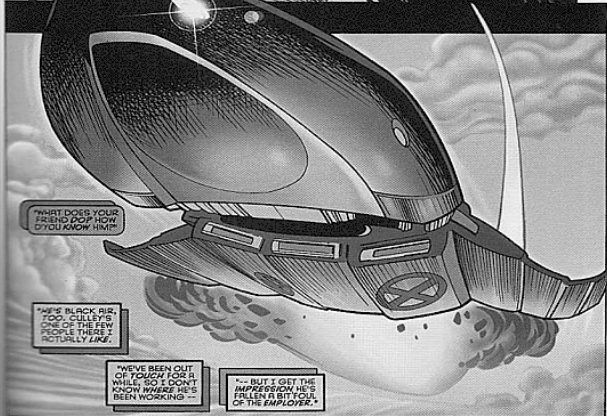
REFERENCE
BOOKED AND
REGISTERED.
PROCEED TO
HANGAR 25H
VIA RUNWAY
4A.

THAT WAS VERY
PROFESSIONAL.



BLACK
AIR MAINTAINS
A COUPLE OF
SECRET HANGARS
AT HEATHROW
UNDER THE FILE
COVER PIZZA
CONNECTION.

THE
SINGLE
PEEK OF THE
INTELLIGENCE
COMMUNITY.
PRYDE -- FREE
PARKING.



"WHAT DOES YOUR
FRIEND DO? HOW
DO YOU KNOW HIM?"

"HE'S BLACK AIR.
TOO. CULLY'S
ONE OF THE FEW
PEOPLE THERE I
ACTUALLY LIKE."

"WE'VE BEEN OUT
OF TOUCH FOR A
WHILE, SO I DON'T
KNOW WHERE HE'S
BEEN WORKING --"

"... BUT I GET THE
IMPRESSION HE'S
FALLEN A BIT FOUL
OF THE EMPLOYER."

84 LITTLE UNDER AN HOUR LATER, THE CHIBBIE WITH A FACE LIKE AN OLD LEATHER SUITCASE IS NOISING THROUGH THE MAZE OF CENTRAL LONDON.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO COME ALONG.

WHAT, I SHOULD WAIT WITH THE RUNNER WHILE YOU GET TO RUN AROUND IN LONDON?

THIS AIN'T YOUR BUSINESS, YOU'LL BE BOKED, OR GET IN THE WAY.

I MIGHT BE ABLE TO HELP, Y'KNOW.

Oh, I DOUBT THAT. I DOUBT THAT VERY MUCH.

WELL, WE'LL FIND OUT BECAUSE I'M NOT LETTING YOU OUT OF MY SIGHT.

NO SMOKIN' IN 'ERE, MATE.

MARVELOUS.



THIS FLAT'S LIKE HIS MOTHER -- HE RUNS BACK HERE WHENEVER SOMETHING'S GONE WRONG.

~PFAUGH~

SMELLS LIKE SOMETHING DIED IN HERE.

DON'T SAY THAT.

LOCKED.

OK NO...



I trigger my ability
to project hot knives
without thinking --

-- I never did tell
Culley I'm a mutant.



CULLEY!

Y'KNOW,
I COULD'VE
PHASED
THROUGH AND
SAVED YOUR
FRIEND'S
DOOR --

Oh.

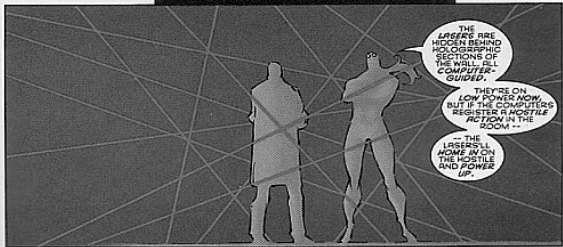


I'M LOSING
MY BOY!

Pryde and I spend some
time searching the reeking
place for Culley, but I know
he's gone.

We pick up the papers
littering the place --

-- and I curse myself
for getting here too
late.





IT'S
PERFECT.
WHAT CAN
I SAY,
BRIAN?

WELL -- I
TELL ME -- I
KNOW MUIR ISLAND
USED TO BE USED TO
REHABILITATE "BAD"
MUTANTS --

-- BUT I
JUST DON'T
SEE HOW ALL
THIS WILL HELP
ANYBODY

THERE'S A
MUTANT IN THE
MUIR HOLDING
CELLS WHO'S
A SERIAL
MURDERER.



SERIAL
MURDERERS
ARE CONTROL
FREAKS. EVEN
WHEN HE'S LOCKED
UP, HE THINKS HE'S
CONTROLLING US.
GODS WE'RE SCARED
ENOUGH OF
HIM TO LOCK
HIM UP.

IN THIS
ROOM -- THIS
PEN -- HE HAS NO
CONTROL.

AND
THAT'S A
START TOWARDS
A CURE FOR
HIM, BRIAN.

I
SEE. HOLD
ON -- WHO'S
THAT AT THE
DOOR?



IT IS DOUBLOCK.
I BRING DOCTOR
CAMPELL'S NEW
PATIENT.

THIS IS
SPOOR.

QUERY: WHAT IS
A BUTT, AND WHY
DOES SPOOR KEEP
OFFERING TO KILL
MINEP



YEAH, I SAW 'IM COME ONCE. HE LOOKED TERRIBLE. ALL SWEATY AND COUGHIN'.

I FOUGHT 'E WAS GONNA POP 'IS CIGS OUTSIDE THE CLUB --

-- ALL THE BLEEDIN' PUBLICITY WE NEED, KNOW WHAT I MEAN?



YOU WANT TO TRANSLATE WHAT SHE SAID FOR A POOR AMERICAN ABROAD?

RULE OF THUMB -- IF THERE'S A MISSING CONSONANT AT THE START OF A WORD, ADD AN H. IF IT'S AT THE END, ADD A G.

AND IF YOU'RE GOING TO "POP YOUR CLOGS" -- IT MEANS YOU'RE GOING TO DIE.

WELL, I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO MAKE OF THE PAPERS CULLEY LITTERED HIS APARTMENT WITH.

THE DESIGNS REMIND ME OF CROOK CIRCLES. THE WRITING SEEMS -- WELL, A BIT RELIGIOUS.

CULLEY WAS AN ATHEIST. WHY'D HE WASTE HIS TIME SCRIBBLING OUT REMAINS OF THIS STUFF?



WHAT ARE WE STOPPING HERE FOR?

WE'RE GOING TO FIND OUT WHERE CULLEY WAS WORKING. FIRST ROUND'S ON YOU.



HELLO, PETE. SHALL I FIND YOUR GIRLFRIEND A SEAT?

HELLO,
DOYLE...
PITMAN...



HEY!

-- IS
MIG, WHICH
IS LIKE YOUR
CIR.

OLD
JARDINE THERE
IS IN CRIMINAL
INTELLIGENCE.



"THE PLACE
IS FULL OF
SPIES"

I'M TRYING TO FIND ED CULLEY. WHAT'S THE GRAPEVINE SAYING?

**CULLBYP
DIDN'T
BLACK AIR
SECOND HIM
TO AN AIR
BASE IN
THE MID-
LANDS?**

**CULLEY'S
DEAD.**

HE'S
IN THE
BLACK AIR
MORQUE
IN WHITE-
HALL.

SORRY
PETE.

YEAH --
IT'S CODE-
NAMED DREAM
NAILS, HE WAS
THEIR SECURITY
CHIEF -- PLACE
HAD A WEIRD
FILE COVER...

THIS IS
THE HUMAN
CHROMOSOME --
THE STRUCTURE
IN WHICH OUR
GENES
RESIDE.

THIS
PARTICULAR
ONE CONTAINS THE
"X" GENE -- THE
ONE THAT MAKES
MUTANTS.

THIS
IS THE
LEGACY
VIRUS.

AT
LEAST, THIS IS THE
BASIC VERSION WE
FIRST ENCOUNTERED.
HANK MCCOY HAS ISOLATED
TWO OTHER "STRIKES,"
BUT I'LL KEEP THIS
SIMPLE.

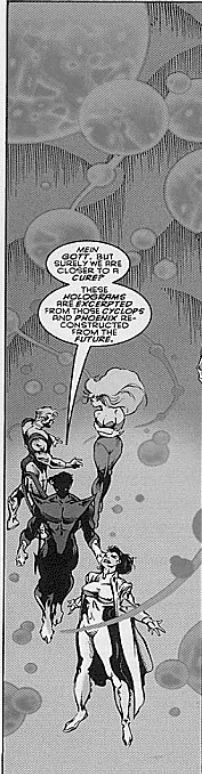
ORIGINALLY,
IT SEEMED
ATTRACTED ONLY
THE MUTANTS --

-- AND ONLY
MADE ITS ENTRY
THROUGH THE "X"
GENE.

IT
CORRUPTED
THE "X" GENE, AND
FROM THERE BEGAN
TO AFFECT THE METAB-
OLISM, AND THE
CONTROL CENTER
FOR MUTANT
ABILITIES.

IN MOST CASES, THE VICTIMS
WERE CONSUMED BY THEIR
OWN WILDLY ACCELERATING
POWERS.





HEIN
GOTT, BUT
SURELY WE ARE
CLOSER TO A
CURE?

THESE
HOLOGRAMS
ARE EXCEPTED
FROM THOSE CYCLOPS
AND PHOENIX RE-
CONSTRUCTED
FROM THE
FUTURE.



ALL
THIS IS TRUE,
BUT THINGS HAVE
CHANGED, AS
YE KNOW.

THIS
IS A BASE-
LINE HUMAN
CHROMOSOME --
SEE, THE MUTANT
GENE IS CLEARLY
MISSING.

DANKÉ,
MORR. THAT
MAKES IT ALL
MUCH CLEARER
TO ME.

HOWEVER,
IN THIS INSTANCE,
THE LEGACY VIRUS
IS SIMPLY BONDING
ONTO THE CHEMICAL
BRANCH WHERE THE
"X" GENE WOULD
PLUG IN.

THIS IS MY
CHROMOSOMAL
STRUCTURE. THIS IS
WHAT HAPPENED
TO ME.



Och,
KURT, I WISH
IT DID FOR
ME.

WHY
WOULD IT TARGET
A HUMAN? WHY
HASN'T IT INFECTED
MORE? SO MANY
QUESTIONS...

AND ALL
I HEAR IS THE
TICKING OF A
TIMEBOMB IN MY
GENES. THAT'LL
EAT ME ALIVE
WHEN IT
BLOWS.

JUST
TICKING AWAY,
NIGHTCRAWLER,
TICKING
AWAY...



THERE'S CULLEY.

LOOKED BETTER, RINT
HEP

UNLESS YOU
COUNT THAT TIME
WE ALL WENT ON
A BENDER IN
REYKJAVIK...



Oh
GOD...

YOU
REMEMBER,
I HAD TO GIVE
CULLEY CPR AFTER
THE TEGULA
SESSION -- -- WHAT
DID HE DIE
OF, STAMFORD?



BEATS
THE SPIT OUT
OF US. HE RINT
CONTAGIOUS,
I CAN TELL
YOU THAT.

SCICLUNA
SAYS JUST TO
LEAVE IT ALONE. CALL
IT NATURAL CAUSES AND
BURY THE POOR
BUGGER.



IF
ANYONE ASKS,
STAMFORD --
WE WERE NEVER
HERE, ALL
RIGHT?



I DON'T GET IT...

I'M SORRY, PETE...

SCICLUNA'S YOUR BOSS AT BLACK AIR, ISN'T SHE?



YEAH, I JUST DON'T GET IT.

HOW DO YOU GET INFECTED WITH A DISEASE NO ONE'S EVER HEARD OF AT AN AIRBASE?

BLACK AIR, CULLEY DIDN'T WANT THEM NEAR HIM. IT'S ALL WRAPPED UP IN BLACK AIR, KITTY --



SN LK



IT'S A HIT! MOVE, KITTY!

PTAK PKEE

PKOW

I PHASE OUT JUST ENOUGH
TO LET BULLETS PASS
THROUGH ME, OLD DRANGER.
ROOM INSTINCTS KICKING IN.

SILENCERS. IF PETE
HADN'T PUSHED ME, I
WOULDN'T HAVE KNOWN
ABOUT THEM. UNTIL
AFTER I WAS DEAD.

She's got guts. I'll
give her that.

She's bright, too --
worked out the
shopper's position
without missing
a beat.

CRACK



Dear Sword Strokes,

I've been a fan for about a year now and have been collecting EXCALIBUR from issue #69 to the current edition. I used to only get EXCALIBUR because it had my favorite character in it, Nightcrawler, but now with Britanic and Meggan and Shadowcat and all the rest, it's hard not to like the comic. I especially love the return of Amanda Sefton, because it shows that Kurt, despite his looks, has someone that loves him. I ask and implore you, that if you are thinking of taking away Kurt's "devil-may-care" attitude, you would be killing one of your best characters.

Make mine Marvel!

Erin Brock
ORD 1 Box 200
Elverson, PA 19520

Glad to have you aboard, Erin! Just because Excalibur now has even closer ties to the rest of the X-teams and is a vital part of their trials and tribulations, don't think for a minute that Kurt will ever truly lose his sense of humor, nor his one-of-a-kind "j'ole de vivre"!

Dear Sword Strokes,

Re: EXCALBUR #84.

What can I say? This issue continued last issue's sparks. I loved all of Gravemoss's attempts to get the Soulsword. I also like how Britanic is developing. Keep up the good writing.

Latorre Marys
821 W. 2nd Street
Pine Bluff, AR 71601

Thanks, Latorre! Brian, or Dr. Braddock as he is being referred to more often than not lately, has decided to explore his scientific side for a little while. But, like it or not, recent revelations from Genosha are putting much more than his knowledge of physics to the test!

To Sword Strokes,

I really enjoyed the last part of the "Soul Sword Trilogy." Ken's art was, as usual, astounding and I really like how the new inker Tom Wegrzyn interprets it. Ken should keep him forever, the way Jim Lee has kept Scott Williams. No one could do a bet-

ter job.

I look forward to EXCALIBUR's installments in the Age of Apocalypse storyline. I know Ken and Tom will do an amazing job and I can't wait to see how Ken has redesigned everyone's costumes. It's sure to be a killer crossover. (Get it, "killer"? Death of Xavier? Never mind.)

Once again, I really like Tom Wegrzyn and think that he should stay with Ken forever; especially now that Ken's art is improving so rapidly, no one could come close!

Steven Opelman
(Address withheld by request)

We think they're a terrific team, also, Steven. Now that the Age of Apocalypse has come and gone, what did you think? We loved Ken's redesigns — especially his Mystique! But what's important is what *you* thought. Drop us a line when you get a chance, okay?

Dear EXCALIBUR,

I have to say I started reading this book because of one of my favorite characters, Nightcrawler. Since then, this book has become one of my favorite books. With new characters like Britanic and Douglock the book has become even cooler.

And I must say the new hovercraft in issue #86 is absolutely awesome! I think it's even better than the original Blackbird!

Ian Carlson
(Address withheld by request)

Thanks for noticing both the crew and the crafts! We have both Ken Lashley and a very talented artist from Brazil named Neil Luty to thank for the Hovercraft design.

As far as Douglock and Britanic go, let's just say that between the Legacy Virus and affairs in Genosha, the lives of these cool characters are about to heat up, considerably!

Hey Suz,

I was going to write and thank you for finally getting the colorist to properly portray Kurt's jammies in grey and black. Then I realized that it wasn't my moaning that caused the

change--it was just Joe Rosas. He always has colored it right. Consistency, that's all I ask. Well actually, consistently done right, that's all I ask.

Todd Maxwell
3230 Overland Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90034

And how do you know it wasn't your moaning that got us to hire the consistently colorful Joe Rosas?

Dear Sword Strokes,

I have never written to a comic book before, but I felt compelled to write to EXCALIBUR. I have really enjoyed all the changes that have occurred in recent months.

Each one of the characters in EXCALIBUR has been developed in such a way that they have become more believable. I have really enjoyed what you have done with Britanic and Meggan. Meggan has become much more than the blonde bimbo she started out to be.

Make mine Marvel!

Marc Mazzeo
(Address withheld by request)

One of the first characters EXCALIBUR's new writer, Warren Ellis, wanted to work with was Meggan. We never saw Meggan as a blonde bimbo, as you say, but as more of a naive, child-like young woman, a bit unsure of herself, yet full of potential. Now, with an awareness and exploration of Meggan's powers over nature, Warren's taking her in some surprising and exciting new directions. We sincerely hope the beautiful Meggan will retain her sense of wonder as this shape-shifter gets a little more comfortable in her own skin.

Dear Excaliburites,

I should be working on my term paper right now, but I just had to write you a short note first. You see, I love it when Kitty Kicks butt!

It's so empowering to see this little woman who can take care of herself, no special powers required, against the biggest baddest nasties in the Marvel Universe. (Yes, I loved the UNCANNY X-MEN ANNUAL this

year, too.) So, thanks again for bringing her to us every month. I've got to get back to work now, so just one last thought. I keep hearing about how comic companies are trying to think of ways to attract more women readers. Well, it's capable, intelligent characters like Kitty (and Storm, and Jean Gray, and Amanda Setton, and gee, most of the X-women) who are going to attract and keep female readers. Hum, maybe that's why the X-books have so many women readers?

Elizabeth R. Milford
(Address withheld by request)

X-women are terrific -- but you're sure hunks like Peter Rasputin, Logan and Remy LeBeau have *nothing* to do with it, Elizabeth?

Dear Sword Strokes,

I have just finished the Soulsword Trilogy, and it was fantastic! You answered my request for a darker writer, all right. It doesn't get any darker than Warren Ellis, and his storytelling is perfect for this trilogy. I would like to know if he is going to be the regular writer -- if he will be, kudos for EXCALIBUR! A darker side to the team would be real cool.

I have a few questions and requests, and then I'll leave you guys alone.

1) I heard Karma may reach the pages of EXCALIBUR. Is this true?

2) The "death" of the X-Men is coming soon. How will it affect the team of Excalibur?

3) If possible, can the comic book delve into Amanda's past and powers?

4) Excalibur needs an evil mutant team to plunder its pages. How about the Dark Riders or the Marauders? Maybe the Acolytes?

5) If Colossus does come back to the X-titles, how about the team of Excalibur?

6) Are there any future storylines involving Haven, the Hand, the Hellfire Club, Britanic's trek through time, or Spoor?

Allan Smith
(Address withheld by request)

Whew! Okay -- by the numbers, Allan! Hope you're sitting

down. 1) It's a possibility. 2) As you've (hopefully) read by now, the roots of Genosha have been exposed and if you keep reading, you'll see how we're already feeling the effects of the Age of Apocalypse. 3) Amanda and Rory both have secrets to keep about their past -- and their future! Wait and see what develops between them. 4) Spoor, of the Acolyte group, is being treated by Dr. Rory Campbell as we speak. The question is -- what price will the treatment demand -- and who will be the one to pay it? 5) It'll be worth your "wait and see." 6) Excalibur will discover some "unsettling" ties between Genosha, the Sugar Man, and the Hellfire Club. We can say no more, for now! (You never know who might be watching...)

Dear Sword Strokes,

I just wanted to let you know how much I am enjoying EXCALIBUR.

I have a favor to ask. Since Muir Island is so close to England, how about an appearance by Magma. Especially since there are two -- er, three -- former members of the New Mutants in Excalibur now that Wolfsbane is joining the team?

Thanks!

M. Allan
(Address withheld by request)

Well, M. Allan, we weren't going to say anything yet, but the cat's outta the bag now, isn't it? Just kidding. Yep, Rahne of X-FACTOR just heard about Moira's illness and wants to spend some time with her guardian again, so we'll be welcoming her to Muir Island very soon. How long she'll want to stay, we don't know.

N E X T
I S S U E :

Don't miss EASY TIGER, part two of the Dream Nails trilogy -- where Pete Wisdom and Kitty Pryde find out firsthand the kind of trouble extraterrestrials and espionage agencies specialize in!



C/O MARVEL
COMICS GROUP
387 PARK
AVENUE SOUTH
NY, NY 10016

Ⓢ
If you don't
want your
full name
and address
printed,
be sure to
tell us!

SUZANNE
GAFFNEY
EDITOR

B O B
HARRAS
CHIEF